

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
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Title of Accomplishment or Milestone: Description of west coast HMS fisheries and fishery dependent communities.

Current Status of Accomplishment or Milestone: A description of west coast commercial and recreational fisheries for HMS and of the communities that are most dependent on these fisheries constitutes a chapter in the latest draft of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's HMS Fishery Management Plan.

Background: This work provides a description of west-coast-based commercial and recreational fisheries for HMS, and the HMS purchasing and processing activities occurring in communities along the West Coast, which is a required element of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's HMS Fishery Management Plan. Moreover, National Standard 8 (NS-8) requires regional fishery management councils to take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities. Conservation and management measures must take fishing communities into account to provide for sustained participation of such communities and to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities. To satisfy this requirement, Councils must examine the social and economic importance of fisheries to communities potentially affected by management measures.

Purpose of Activity: This work is intended to provide baseline information on the operation and performance of west-coast-based commercial and recreational fisheries for HMS, and HMS purchasing and processing activities. To conduct biological, social and economic analyses of proposed fishery management measures entails evaluating changes from the baseline conditions with and without the proposed action. Under NS-8, fishery management plans (FMP) must take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities and provide information and analyses to evaluate the community impacts of proposed conservation or management actions.

Description of Accomplishment and Significant Results: Commercial and recreational fisheries targeting HMS are characterized in terms of the species targeted, the gears used, vessel typology, areas and seasons of operation, and related activities beyond the exvessel level. Quantities landed and corresponding exvessel revenues by species, gear type and location are provided for commercial HMS fisheries. Catches, areas and seasons fished are presented for charter/party boats and private boats that comprise the HMS recreational fishery. HMS communities were identified according to their share of total annual west coast landings of HMS. Each HMS community is profiled in terms of its: 1) demographics; 2) regional and seasonal, commercial and recreational fishing activities; 3) commercial harvesters (gears used and); 4) fish buying and processing; and, 5) recreational fishing. Inclusion of a community in the Fisheries Description does not constitute a determination of a particular community's dependence on HMS fishing. However, its inclusion will serve to determine its dependence in the analysis of future

management actions.

Significance of Accomplishment: The Description of the Fisheries chapter of the HMS FMP represents a significant accomplishment with regard to the compilation and presentation social and economic HMS fisheries data. The chapter furnishes an extensive socioeconomic baseline from which to gage the potential impacts of future conservation and management actions. It also provides a good template for monitoring the operations and performance of HMS fisheries that can be included in the HMS Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document.

Problems: None

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